



California Department of Public Health – June 28, 2013



Multistate Hepatitis A Outbreak Linked to Frozen Berries and Pomegranate Seeds

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and state and local health departments, including the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California local health departments, are investigating an outbreak of acute hepatitis A virus infections associated with the consumption of Townsend Farms brand Organic Antioxidant Blend sold by Costco stores and Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend sold by Harris Teeter stores (not sold in California). Additionally, a recall of Woodstock Frozen Organic Pomegranate Kernels (seeds) distributed by Scenic Fruit Company was announced on 6/26/2013 due to the potential risk of contamination with hepatitis A virus. At this time, no illnesses have been linked to the Woodstock product (product images on page 2).

More information about this multistate outbreak is available on the CDC Webpage:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/>

FAQs for the Public

Q: What do I do if I have purchased this product?

- Do not eat any of the recalled products. Discard any remaining product from your freezers, even if some of the product has been eaten without anyone in your home becoming ill.

Q: What do I do if I ate any of the recalled products?

- If you ate the product within the past 14 days, talk to your healthcare provider about getting the hepatitis A vaccine. If you have already been vaccinated against hepatitis A or have had hepatitis A disease in the past, you are protected and unlikely to become ill. Most children are vaccinated against hepatitis A. If so, they're already protected.
- Hepatitis A vaccine was introduced in 1995 has been recommended for California children since 1999.
- If you've eaten either product, but haven't eaten it in the last two weeks, look for symptoms of

hepatitis. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of these symptoms:

- Yellow eyes or skin
 - Abdominal pain
 - Pale stools (feces)
 - Dark urine
- Hepatitis A infection can develop from 2 to 6 weeks after consuming contaminated food or drink. If you ate this product more than six weeks ago and currently feel well, your risk of infection is very low. If you ate this product between 2 and 6 weeks ago and have symptoms of hepatitis, see your healthcare provider.

Q: What if I don't have a healthcare provider or health insurance?

- If you need to find free or low-cost health care, search for a list of community health centers here: http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/Search_HCC.aspx
- To search for a list of providers, including pharmacies, that may carry hepatitis A vaccine (persons should call first to ensure that hepatitis A vaccine is in stock), see the "Adult Vaccine Finder" at: <http://vaccine.healthmap.org/index.php>
- For additional questions, please contact your local health department: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/pages/californialocalhealthdepartments.aspx>

Q: Where I can find more information?

- More advice for consumers, including information on specific product and lot codes included in the recall may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/advice-consumers.html>
- For additional information about hepatitis A, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/A/aFAQ.htm>

Recalled products:

